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Assistant Director, ORE

Attn: [redacted]

5 January 1949

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Chief, Political Desk, EE/USSR

Chief, FBIB

EE/USSR Briefs

1. In response to an informal request made by telephone on 28 December 1948 by the Chief, Political Desk, EE/USSR, the following comments are submitted with reference to the EE/USSR Briefs:

a. This office would prefer to receive additional issues of this document before giving a formal reaction to the value of EE/USSR Briefs.

b. It is assumed that the daily BRIEFS are a supplement to the EE/USSR weekly "Working Paper", which is considered by the Special Reports Division, FBIB, to be the most valuable intelligence publication received.

c. Items contained in the 24 December 1948 issue of the BRIEFS are all of considerable value in keeping FBIB staff members apprised of indicated possible events and in providing a more meaningful frame of reference for selecting and reporting on material emanating from the Soviet radio.

d. Several of the items appear to be of such a character as to justify further immediate elaboration (unless it can be assumed this elaboration will be included in the weekly "Working Paper"). It is recognized that expansion of these items cannot be extensive and still maintain the category of "Briefs". However, it is suggested that a phrase or clause of explanation would be of value in underlining the significance of particular items. For example:

(1) "Long deferred All-Union Party Congress likely to meet in June or July 1949." (A phrase or clause indicating the possible significance of such an event at this particular time would be welcome — or allusion to the factors from which such a likelihood has been inferred.)

(2) "Malenkov's star apparently rising." (Same comment as above.)

(3) "New moves to disrupt ERP looked for" (A suggestion of the types of new moves looked for might have been included without expanding the item appreciably.)

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2. FBIB considers the publication as it now stands to be of great value, with or without the elaboration referred to in paragraph 1 d, and it is requested that this Branch be placed on a continuing and regular distribution list by ORE for this document.

L. K. WHITE

PLB/jg

AdmOff

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